

Message Text

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R 122449Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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AFDROUGHT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION PARIS OUAGADOUGOU 06 SEP 73 RPT TO
YOU QUOTE

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AIDAC

AFDROUGHT

FOR MAURICE WILLIAMS FROM ADAMS

MO. 11652: N/A

1. ARTHUR FELL PROVIDED BASIC INFORMATION ON NOAA CONSULTANT GENE BOLLAY AND FACT WEATHER SCIENCES, INC. CONTRACTED BY NIGER FOR CLOUD SEEDING. USG PLAYED NO DIRECT ROLE IN CONTRACTOR SELECTION OR SIGNING. CONSULTANT WILLIAMS AND COMPANY TEAM HEADED BY BOOKER ARRIVING NIGER SHORTLY UNDER GON CONTRACT.

2. US INTENDED NO REPEAT NO RECOMMENDATION TO GON WITH RESPECT CLOUD SEEDING. BOLLAY MERELY NOTED IN RESPONSE QUERIES FROM GON OFFICIALS IN NIGER THAT A FEW CLOUDS OBSERVED DURING HIS WEEK'S
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STAY WERE TYPE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SEEDING. DECISION TO UNDERTAKE

CLOUD SEEDING OPERATION MADE BY GON, WHICH WAS PREPARED FINANCE UNDERTAKING. ON BOLLAY RETURN US, DEPARTMENT AGREED HE CONTACT NIGER EMBASSY AND URGED HIRING OF CONSULTANT TO ASSIST CONTRACTOR SELECTION. DEPARTMENT ALSO AGREED INFORM PRIVATE METEOR-9)9&8:-):9,54-:594 9* &9, 8,5343 5. SUBSEQUENT CONTRACT WITH WEATHER SCIENCES RESULTED WITHOUT FURTHER OFFICIAL USG INVOLVEMENT, NOR IS USG IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH SEEDING OPERATIONS.

3. OBVIOUS HERE THAT TWO THINGS MIGHT OCCUR OUAGADOUGOU OF WHICH YOU SHOULD BE AWARE: BOLLAY'S CONTACTS WITH SAHEL COUNTRY REPS AT GENEVA WMO MEETING PRIOR NIGER VISIT INDICATED 1) REPS AGREED REGIONAL COOPERATION/PROGRAM ONLY ONE MAKES SENSE AND 2) WEATHER MODIFICATION SAID TO BE TOPIC FOR TECHNICAL MEETINGS, PERHAPS RESULTING DECISION CHIEFS OF STATE. WOULD ADD THAT NIGER MIGHT EXPRESS RESERVATIONS TO YOU ABOUT LACK US SUPPORT THIS EFFORT, WHILE OTHER COUNTRY REPS MAY CRITICIZE INDEPENDENT ACTION BY NIGER WITHOUT REGARD EFFECTS ELSEWHERE IN REGION. DISCUSSIONS IF ANY ON WEATHER MODIFICATION AT PIC MAY BE INFLUENCED BY NIGER ACTION.

4. AMEMBASSY FT. LAMY EXPRESSED GREAT APPREHENSIONS REGARDING NIGER CLOUD SEEDING AS POSSIBLE RESULTING REPERCUSSIONS AGAINST US. WHILE THIS MAY BE MISUNDERSTANDING OF FACTS, SUGGEST EXTREME CAUTION CONSIDERING ANY PROGRAM WITHIN LONG-RANGE CONTEXT AND ADVISE AGAINST INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY RESPONSE. SPENCER REACTION FROM DAKAR TAKES THIS APPROACH AND ADDS WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL ALL FACTS ARE IN. WE WOULD AGREE.

5. SEPTEL PROVIDES DETAILS NIGER SURVEY/BOLLAY ROLE AND NOTES SUGGESTION BY GENEVA AND OUAGADOUGOU THAT BOLLAY ATTEND PIC MEETINGS. HE WILL NOT.

DECONTROL OCTOBER 31, 1973. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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